

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 875

By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend David Ward Tipton of Piney Flats.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tipton is one such exemplary public servant and consummate professional who has worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, David Tipton attended Poplar Ridge and Mary Hughes Schools before he joined the United States Navy in 1940 at the age of fifteen; serving in World War II, he earned campaign medals for participation in the Atlantic Campaign, Pacific Campaign, and the occupation of Japan, as he fought aboard the heavy cruiser USS *Chester* in numerous battles in the Pacific and aboard the net cargo tender USS *Tuscan*a during the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa; and

WHEREAS, after twenty years of serving with the utmost skill, dedication, and bravery, he retired from the Navy in June 1960 with the rank of Chief Petty Officer; and

WHEREAS, until his retirement in 1986, Mr. Tipton served with acumen and alacrity as a supervisor at Pharmaseal Laboratories, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated public servant, David Tipton has devoted many years to the benefit and welfare of veterans, as he is a life member of the Fleet Reserve Association, a member of the American Legion, and a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9629, where he has served as Post Commander since 1970; he also has served the Veterans of Foreign Wars as Tennessee State Commander in 1986 and 1987 and as its representative to the Board of Directors of the Mountain Home Veterans Hospital in Johnson City; and

WHEREAS, for more than eighteen years, Mr. Tipton has served as a member of the Tennessee Veterans Home Board after being appointed by Governor McWherter in 1988 and reappointed by Governors Sundquist and Bredesen. His distinguished record of public service also includes a long tenure on the Sullivan County Board of Zoning and Appeals; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished freemason, David Tipton attained status as a thirty-two degree mason of the M.M. Martin Lodge 547 and membership in the York Rites, Scottish Rites, and Shriners; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong Republican who tirelessly serves his community and fellow countrymen, he has served for many years as a member and chairman of the ninth precinct in Piney Flats and as vice chairman of the third legislative district of the Sullivan County Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tipton is also a proud life member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Lt. Robert D. Powell Camp of Blountville due to his great-grandfather Granville Smith's service in the 59th Tennessee Mounted Infantry from Sullivan County; and

WHEREAS, David Tipton is an active and devout member of the Poplar Ridge Christian Church, which was founded in 1842 by his ancestors of the Smith and Weaver families; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tipton is also deeply devoted to his family, and he has always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, David Tipton enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of more than fifty years, Berneice Dempsey, before her untimely death in 1998. He is the proud parent of Judy Lynn Martin and David William Tipton; grandfather of Amy, Alison, Kimberly, and Ashley; and great-grandfather of Chloe, Braden, and Corbin; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tipton has established an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud David Tipton for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend David Ward Tipton for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.